AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

Published by the Information Department of THE AUSTRIAN CONSULATE GENERAL

683 FIFTH AVENUE · NEW YORK 22, N.Y. TELEPHONE: MURRAY HILL 8-1816

VOL. I, # 4 September 15, 1948

ANNOUNCEMENT: In order to insure immediate attention, requests for additional data about Austria and suggestions for improvements in AUSTRIAN INFORMATION should be addressed directly to Dr. Martin Fuchs, Chief of Information Department, Austrian Consulate General, 683 Fifth Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.

AUSTRIAN REACTION TO DANUBE CONFERENCE DECISIONS. The Austrian government has accepted in its entirety the report on the Danube Conference submitted by Mr. Orsini-Rosenberg, the Austrian delegate who was so bitterly attacked by Mr. Vishinsky at the Conference. Commenting on the Conference results before a meeting of the Cabinet, Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Karl Gruber reaffirmed the government's refusal to recognize Conference decisions as binding upon Austria. According to the official stand, Austria will refuse to consider the regulations adopted until she has been accorded her rightful status as a full member of the Danube Authority, with voting and other privileges on an equal footing with all participating nations.

President Karl Renner, speaking at Korneuburg in the Russian Zone on August 29, stated that the conclusion of the Conference did not mean that the fate of the Danube had been settled. President Renner stressed especially Austrian contributions to the development and organization of Danube transportation. "Now", said President Renner, "new states have inherited the fruits of Austrian efforts. We do not wish to criticize their right to this succession, but their claim to participation in the use and management of the river cannot be different from, or of higher priority than, that of Austria." President Renner stated that it was incredible that Austria should have been given no voice in the proceedings.

Minister of the Interior Helmer, in an address some days earlier at Mauthausen in the Soviet Zone, reminded the meeting that Austria had been declared a non-enemy country at Potsdam three years ago. Still, he pointed out, Austrian shipping lines on the Danube were being seized as enemy property. These lines, he stated, had been owned and operated by Austria for a hundred years, had been paid for with Austrian money and produced by Austrian labor. When, in 1938, these lines were taken over by the Goering Company, it was by an act of robbery executed contrary to the will of Austria. Minister Helmer described how the post-war occupation had halted practically all civilian transport on Danubian waters within Austria. Not only was the Danube restricted to military traffic, but farmers had been prevented from working fields along the river during several months of Russian military maneuvers. Minister Helmer attributed the Danube Conference decisions to the fact that Russia had found it impossible to declare the waters of the river German property. He insisted that Russia and the other Eastern powers had gone to Belgrade with the express intention of making Austria a stepchild among the riparian states. Minister Helmer stated that the extravagant attacks launched against Austria at the Conference were unfounded, and that Austria had done its share in the fight against Nazism. Why, he asked, should Austria be singled out? Other nations, he reminded his audience, had made "Friendship Pacts" with Germany after 1938. Many of the eastern nations, Minister Helmer went on to say, joined forces with the Nazis before a single German soldier had set foot on their soil, and continued the alliance until it was dissolved by the Nazi defeat. This, he said, was hardly a war record of which to be proud. Reverting to the specific problem of control of the Danube, Minister Helmer told how Austria had first opened the river to modern transportation. He stated that the Donaudampfschiffahrts-Gesellschaft was the first transportation enterprise to open up international markets for the

eastern nations. Austria, he said, might be forced to suffer the injustice of exclusion from voting on Danubian matters, but she would never recognize an administration of Danube affairs in which she did not participate.

AUSTRIA ACCEPTS MEMBERSHIP IN UN AGENCIES. On August 27, 1948, Dr. Ludwig Kleinwaechter, Austrian Minister to the U.S., signed a declaration of adherence by Austria to the International Civil Aviation Organization. On the same day, Austria officially joined the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund. Austria first made application for membership in these two agencies on August 20, 1947. Membership in the International Bank and the International Monetary Fund was contingent upon the stability of Austria's currency. This condition was met by the Currency Reform Bill of December 19, 1947. Austria's share in the International Monetary Fund amounts to $50 million. Austria owns 500 shares in the International Bank, with a value of $50 million. Austria is the forty-seventh nation to join these two organizations which were established at Bretton Woods, and will be present at a meeting to be held on September 27.

AMERICAN PROPOSAL FOR FREEDOM OF TRAVEL WITHIN AUSTRIA. The American representative in the Allied Control Council, Brig. Gen. Balmer submitted a motion designed to end travel restrictions among the four occupation zones of Austria. This motion was inspired by the economic difficulties and impediments to trade arising from present conditions. It was supported by the French and British, and opposed by the Russian representative. The Soviet representative countered with a demand that Austria be permitted to enter into bilateral agreements with other countries for the repatriation of persons who had been forced to migrate. He also insisted that displaced persons should be subject to Austrian jurisdiction, and that Austrian courts should be under the supervision of the Allied Commission. If these two conditions were accepted, the Russians would be willing to permit free movement within Austria of Austrian citizens, displaced persons, and German and Japanese nationals; but under no circumstances would Russia agree to unrestricted travel for the citizens of the occupying powers. In view of the Russian attitude, the matter was dropped for the time being.

FRENCH PROPOSAL TO PERMIT GLIDING IN AUSTRIA. The French High Commissioner, Gen. Bethouart, proposed to the Allied Control Council that Austrian citizens be permitted to operate sailplanes. The Soviet representative objected on the grounds that soaring would constitute military training. Gen. Bethouart explained that he had been referring to soaring as a sport for young people, long practiced in Austria, which would leave them less time for politics. The Russian representative expressed the opinion that the matter came within the province of the Office for Civilian Aviation, and reserved judgment until he had obtained a statement from them.

SUPPRESSION OF SOCIALIST NEWSPAPERS. The Socialist Party of Lower Austria has denounced the suppression of three Socialist weeklies formerly published in the Russian zone. The "People's Tribune" has been indefinitely suspended by order of the Soviet authorities, while the Wiener-Neustadt "Equality" and the Socialist county newspaper published in Neunkirchen have been silenced for two months. Distribution within the Russian zone of certain other papers published in Innsbruck, Graz, Linz and elsewhere, has also been forbidden, including some non-Socialist publications. According to a decision reached among the occupying powers on October 1, 1945, undesirable publications could be suppressed only by joint action of the four powers. The Socialist Party in Lower Austria has 130,000 members and, according to the results of the last election, represents some 40% of the voters.

BEATINGS OF AUSTRIAN WORKMEN. The Socialist newspaper "Arbeiter Zeitung" reports the case of a workman who was arrested in Wiener-Neustadt by Russian soldiers, beaten severely four times in the course of a single afternoon, and then released, after a small fragment of brick had fallen from the roof where he was working onto the head of a Russian major. According to "Arbeiter Zeitung", the major was not injured, and ascended to the roof himself to find out what had happened. He left after warning the workman to be more careful. Four

other workmen who had not been present when the incident occurred, but who arrived later in the day, were also reported to have been arrested and beaten, one of them so badly that his hearing was impaired.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES IN VIENNA AND LOWER AUSTRIA. The "Arbeiter-Zeitung" reports a new outbreak of abductions and other acts of violence in Vienna and Lower Austria, committed by unidentified persons ("Unbekannte"). According to the paper, the fact that many of the criminals are described as wearing the uniforms of the occupying powers is not conclusive, since many such uniforms have found their way into civilian hands. The term "Unbekannte", as it is used by the "Arbeiter-Zeitung", ordinarily refers to members of the Soviet army. The Socialist daily relates the story of the killing of an aged man by an intoxicated man dressed as an American corporal. The following day, an unidentified man wearing a "Khaki-uniform" assaulted 50-year old Josef Boeckl, who died of his injuries a day later. The same week, according to the paper, there was another incident involving a number of persons wearing American uniforms. Police, answering cries for help, found four uniformed men beating a prostrate civilian. The assailants fled, and were not captured. The victim, a taxi driver, was robbed of his wallet containing identification papers, license and money. According to his account, his attackers had also meant to steal his vehicle.

At three in the afternoon on August 7, a man was seized by the occupants of a blue Mercedes car which, as it drove away, was followed by a jeep containing Russian soldiers. The man, in trying to fight off his abductors, called out in what was described as a Slavic language. The incident took place on the Kaerntnerstrasse - Annagasse corner, and the victim was believed to be a member of the nearby Yugoslav embassy.

A few days later, a Hungarian refugee named Szabo was tricked into visiting the IRO offices on Stalin Place, and was seized by men in Russian uniform as he was leaving. The kidnapping occurred at 10 in the morning. A Czech refugee, Victor Podolsky, was aroused from his sleep by three men claiming to be Austrian plainclothesmen, and placed under arrest. When Podolsky's landlady called the police to ask about disposition of his belongings, she was told that he was being held by the Russians. Podolsky, the owner of a department store, was awaiting a visa to join his wife in London.

AMERICAN RELIEF FUNDS IN AUSTRIA. On August 26, according to the "Wiener Zeitung", Chancellor Figl was advised by Lt. Gen. Geoffrey Keyes, American Commander in Austria, that funds from the sale of American relief supplies amounting to 250 million schillings have now been released for reconstruction purposes. Goods are sold by the Austrian government at the Vienna market price, and the proceeds are held in escrow in a special account to be used for reconstruction. The government disposes of the funds subject to the approval of American authorities.

RECONSTRUCTION FUNDS VOTED. The first allocation of funds to be used in the program of rebuilding during 1948 and 1949 has been made by the Commission for Housing Reconstruction. A sum of 450 million schillings has been set aside for the repair and reconstruction of homes and apartment buildings, and an additional 50 million schillings has been appropriated for replacement of furnishings damaged by military action.

TRADE UNION WAGE AND PRICE POLICIES. According to the "Wiener Zeitung", the price and wage policies of Austrian labor were re-defined during a joint meeting held in Vienna on August 28 by Socialist Party representatives and Socialist Trade Union delegates. Up to then, the Socialist majority in the trade unions had advocated a continuing reduction of price levels as the most effective way of raising the living standard of Austrian workers, to increase foreign trade, and in general to bring about economic stabilization. The Communist minority had consistently opposed this attitude. Now, according to a statement issued by the Socialist Party, labor has been forced by what it calls the selfishness of certain economic groups to modify its former position to some extent. The new policy calls for a three point program: 1. continuation of the campaign to lower prices; 2. an increase in income for workers and employees in order to balance the increased cost of living; 3. strict observance of the policy that wage increases should not be allowed to drive prices still higher. On the same day, the Central Committee of the Communist Party announced their campaign

to obtain a general 25% wage increase.

INCREASE IN FOOD RATIONS. As of September 13, the basic food ration in Austria has been raised from 1800 calories to 2100 calories daily. The increase was made possible by the increased production of domestic foodstuffs, and American relief shipments will not be augmented. Speaking before a conference of the Austrian State Governors, Chancellor Figl stressed the vital need for increased Austrian food production so that foreign credits could be diverted from food purchases to purchases of capital goods.

INCREASE IN FOREIGN TRADE VOLUME. The volume of foreign trade during the first six months of this year was almost equal to that for all of 1947. Figures released by American military authorities show that exports during the first half of 1948 were valued at 805.4 million schillings, compared to 842.4 million schillings for all of 1947. Italy and Switzerland were the main customers for Austrian goods, together absorbing approximately 40% of exports. The main groups of goods exported were: lumber, paper, metals, machines, vehicles, textiles, chemicals, magnesite, fireproof bricks and glass. Imports during the first half of the year amounted to 11,403 million schillings, while 1947 imports totalled 11,912 million schillings. Coal from Germany was the chief import product. Coal was also imported from Czechoslovakia, Poland and France.

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN VIENNA. The Baroque palace of the Princes of Schwarzenberg, which suffered severe bomb damage during the war, has been repaired and made into an International House for foreign trade. The Vienna International House will act as a liaison center between businessmen and government officials, and will assist foreign and Austrian businessmen in finding suppliers, customers and needed information. Its services will include a permanent display of samples of goods. The center will also house a club for personal contacts between Austrian and foreign businessmen. Plans have been completed for converting a neighboring building into a hotel where visiting businessmen can stay. The hotel will have 127 rooms, as well as conference rooms and convention facilities.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES. The Ministry of Finance has announced rates of exchange for foreign currencies for use in legal and administrative procedures, such as lawsuits, establishing tax valuations, trade statistics, etc. The official rate of exchange for business transactions, which fluctuates but which corresponds quite closely to the Finance Ministry rate, is fixed by the Vienna National Bank. A partial list of Finance Ministry figures for the foreign value of the schilling follows: pound sterling, 40 schillings; American or Canadian dollar, 10; Argentine peso, 2.465; Swiss franc, 2.327; Belgian franc, .227; French franc, .047; Italian lira, .017.

TRADE WITH BRAZIL. Austria has recently made a shipment of motorcycles to Brazil in payment for 100 000 kilograms of Brazilian coffee. Further exchanges of Austrian industrial products in return for sugar, cotton, rice, cocoa and hides are being negotiated.

INDUSTRIAL FURNACES BEING MADE IN AUSTRIA. A large number of Austrian industries are engaged in the construction of industrial furnaces. Export customers include Argentina, Mexico, Turkey and Sweden. Domestic industry has recently purchased special furnaces for use in the cast iron pipe works of the Tyrol and for the manufacture of ceramics. The furnace industry obtains 90% of its raw materials from domestic sources, and is able to deliver furnaces in less time than many of its foreign competitors.

CAST IRON WORKS BEGIN PRODUCTION. The first Austrian cast iron pipe is now being manufactured at the Solbad Hall works in the Tyrol. In addition to high and low pressure cast iron pipes for use in water mains and sewers, these works are producing machine parts and other cast iron products by a new centrifugal process. The plant will have a full capacity of 600 metric tons per month, and will employ between 150 and 200 workers.

AUSTRIAN SPORTS CAR DESIGN FOR SWISS MANUFACTURERS. The famous Austrian industrial designer, Porsche, best known for his German Volkswagen, has begun manufacture of a pilot series of his new Model 356

sports car at the Gmuend plant in Carinthia. The car will be produced in quantity by Swiss manufacturers. The Model 356 is a closed 2-seater, with a large trunk compartment which will accommodate an extra passenger. It is powered by a 40-HP motor, has an unusually low center of gravity, has independent suspension of all four wheels, and fully loaded weighs about 770 kilograms. The car has a top speed of 140 km per hour, is extremely economical to operate, and can climb a 30-degree slope in second gear.

AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLES IN AUSTRIA. The Austrian Central Statistical Office reports that as of April 30, 1948, there were 144 175 automotive vehicles in use in Austria. This is an increase of 21% over the 119 585 vehicles being operated in September, 1937. The apparent improvement in the transportation situation makes no allowance, however, for the fact that many of the vehicles now in use are superannuated and badly deteriorated. Operators of motor vehicles are hampered by shortages of spare parts, tires, and fuel, to such an extent that the present number of vehicles cover a smaller number of kilometers than did the smaller number of vehicles in 1937.

AUSTRIAN PATENT OFFICE AGAIN ACTIVE. The Austrian Patent Office, abolished under the German occupation, has been revived and is once again offering its services to the public. The Patent Office library contains 160 000 volumes, and 400 000 patents granted in the U.S., Great Britain, the Scandinavian countries and Switzerland since 1938 have been added to the files. Almost 14 000 patents have been granted to Austrians since the end of the war, and a number of trade mark applications have been received. Shortages of trained staff personnel are being overcome by a series of training courses.

STATISTICS ON SOCIAL WELFARE IN VIENNA. At a meeting of the Federal Conference of Social Workers, the Mayor of Vienna, General Koerner, gave the following information on social welfare work in the city. Despite the destruction and conversion to other uses of hospitals, school buildings and other such facilities, Vienna is very active in the field of social welfare. The city operates 78 maternity services, which handle an average of 250 000 consultations annually. There are 120 kindergartens which serve 10 000 children, and 70 day camps caring for 2500 children. Vienna has assumed paternal responsibility for 25 000 children, 4000 of whom are housed in public institutions. Regular assistance is given to 20 000 families. Homes for the aged provide for 6000 persons, and 2000 mental patients are cared for by the city. Of Vienna's total annual budget of 861 million schillings, some 125 millions are spent for social welfare, and another 129 million for sanitation and health services.

HEALTH CONDITIONS IN VIENNA. During July 1948 there were 220 new cases of diphtheria in Vienna, compared to 226 in June. In July there were 156 new cases of scarlet fever, and in June 260 cases. There were five cases of poliomyelitis reported during June and July. Typhus during July struck 49 persons. Examinations by social agencies of 3802 persons revealed 2711 new cases of tuberculosis during the month, bringing the total of active tuberculosis to 41 787 registered cases. Venereal disease clinics and services treated 6407 cases during July. During the same month 768 new cases of venereal disease were reported.

JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE IN VIENNA. Dr. Kurt Lewin who has been sent to Austria by the Government of Israel and who heads the Jewish Agency in Vienna has been received by Foreign Minister Dr. Karl Gruber.

DISPLACED PERSONS LEAVING FOR PALESTINE. During August a large number of displaced persons left camps in the Tyrol by truck for Italy, from where they hope to go on to Palestine. No figures are available as to the precise extent of the migration.

FORMER NAZI SENTENCED. Adolf Girzick, deputy chief of the "Central Office for Jewish Emigration" under the German occupation, has been convicted on charges of treason, torture and maltreatment of prisoners, and other war crimes, and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment.

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE ASSISTANCE TO AUSTRIA. During July, food parcels were sent to 15 340 Austrians by the American Friends Service Committee. Twenty tons of clothing were also shipped

by this agency during the month. Among the recipients of foodstuffs are 13 970 young adult tuberculosis victims who are not at present hospitalized, and 220 tubercular children and adolescents who are being treated in the hospital at Baumgartner Hoehe near Vienna.

AUSTRIAN STUDENTS IN THE U.S. Thirty Austrian students will leave for the United States this month to begin a year of study. In announcing the scholarship awards, the American Minister to Austria, Mr. John Erhardt, stated that he hoped the students would gain a deeper insight into American culture by their stay in the U.S.

SCARCITY OF PRIESTS IN AUSTRIA. "Orbis Catholicus", a new Catholic monthly, reports that there are at present too few young men entering the priesthood to fill the gaps caused by the deaths of older priests. Despite the grave concern over the scarcity of new priests, Orbis Catholicus comments favorably on the caliber of current candidates for Holy Orders. Of the present crop of divinity students, 90% to 95% are war veterans, and show a vigorous interest in world affairs. Candidates for the priesthood are coming increasingly from urban backgrounds, although from the smaller rather than the larger cities. While formerly almost all priests were drawn from the rural sections of Austria, at present only 40% to 45% of the students are from peasant families. In the Archdiocese of Vienna, only 30% of divinity students now come from rural backgrounds.

AUSTRIAN SURGEON HONORED BY AMERICAN ORGANIZATION. The May-June 1948 issue of the Texas Cancer Bulletin, published by the Texas Cancer Coordinating Council, bears a cover design featuring a 2-schilling piece minted in 1929 in honor of C. A. T. Billroth (1829-1894), who "contributed more to the subject of tumors than any other surgeon who ever lived." According to the descriptive note inside the cover, Billroth performed the first total laryngectomy, the first successful resection of the pylorus, and was the first to excise cancer of the stomach.

DENTAL EXHIBITION IN VIENNA. The Third International Dental Exhibition which opened in Vienna on August 29 under the auspices of the Vienna Institute for Dentistry is featuring an historical display which contrasts a complete dental clinic of the year 1875 with a contemporary dental office. Equipment from France, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia is being shown. There are no American exhibits.

SURPLUS OF DOCTORS IN VIENNA. The medical profession in Vienna is suffering from severe overcrowding. As of January 1948, 4002 doctors were practicing in the city, and on the basis of the fact that the number of doctors increases at the rate of 50 per month it is estimated that there will be 5000 by the year's end. In view of Vienna's population of 1.7 million, this makes a ratio of one doctor to every 425 inhabitants. To earn an average livelihood, there should be a proportion of one doctor for every 1000-1500 persons, so that there are from three to four times as many doctors in Vienna as is economically feasible. Immediately after the war there was a shortage of doctors, since many had fled to the western part of the country, and others were prisoners of war. Most of these have now returned, and many new doctors are being graduated from the universities each year. The Universities of Vienna, Graz and Innsbruck have a combined enrollment of 6000 medical students, while the medical schools of the United States only graduate 5000 per year. Austria as a whole requires the services of only 9000 doctors, and the overcrowding is expected to continue for at least another ten years. In the present situation, most doctors are able to earn less than workers in the higher-paid manual trades.

SHORTAGE OF COURT JUDGES IN AUSTRIA. Vice President Malaniuk of the Superior Court (Landesgericht) for Vienna announces that due to a shortage of judges the court now has a backlog of 6000 cases and that as a result the entire business life of the community is endangered. The Court of Civil Law handles suits amounting to more than 1500 schillings and all cases under the matrimonial laws. The number of lawsuits has doubled in recent years, and there are now 15 000 divorce cases per year. The 30 court judges and the 13 judges assigned to handle restitution cases can dispose of only 300 cases a month. Before the war, a judge was assigned to each division of the court, while now a single judge will be required to handle the

work for two or even three divisions, while in each division the number of cases has doubled. One judge has already collapsed and died from overwork, while exhaustion is lowering the resistance of all the judges to sickness. There are an average of 10 judges absent because of sickness at all times, and the average duration of sickness is four weeks. The payment of judges is comparatively low, and very few men are preparing for the field, most law school graduates preferring private practice or employment in the administrative branches of government.

AUSTRIAN BOOKS ON DISPLAY AT VIENNA FALL FAIR. Two hundred books published in Austria are currently on exhibit at the Vienna Fall Fair, providing publishers with an important opportunity to demonstrate the quality of native literary products. Austrian publishers have been hard-pressed recently, their West German export market having been sharply diminished by American-British Joint Export-Import Agency currency policies, and domestic sales having been curtailed following the December currency reform. American authorities have recently ordered $95 000 worth of translations of American books to be distributed through information centers in Western Germany, and further sales to Bizonia of $125 000 are expected soon. Publishers have also made agreements with the Eastern Zone of Germany for the sale of $1 million worth of books, but even this becomes a minor transaction in view of the originally projected sales of books worth $10 million to Germany. Austrian publishers already have a $5 million stock of books which they had planned to ship to Germany. Vienna's 280 publishers are in competition with Swiss publishers for German-language markets, and are handicapped in the field of translations since foreign publishing firms prefer to sell translation rights in Switzerland for hard Swiss currency. Meanwhile, Austrian writers see no end to the hardships which they face as a result of the present situation.

TEXTBOOKS FOR AUSTRIAN SCHOOLS. The Austrian Ministry of Education has announced that it will have available for the fall term 6 million copies of 236 different schoolbooks. In 1946, 45 new texts were published, 73 in 1947, and 118 in 1948. Differences among the occupying powers concerning facts and interpretations of history have led to the rejection of four out of the five history books submitted for approval. The acceptability of another history manuscript is now being discussed. Similar divergences of viewpoint have restricted the publication of more than a few volumes dealing with geography and with statistics of populations and economies. In the works being used, the boundaries of some European countries and of the colonies of European countries are not defined. Students in the upper middle schools have been provided with a reader of world literature. Ideological differences among the occupying powers have caused approval to be withheld from a book of introductory psychology for use in teachers colleges, and have also prevented the use of certain philosophy texts.

EXHIBIT OF JUVENILE BOOKS. The Austrian Ministry of Education has established a commission to encourage distribution of good juvenile books. As part of the commission's program, an exhibit of typical American and European children's books will be held in Vienna during November and December. American publishers interested in submitting books for the exhibition may do so through Dr. Martin Fuchs, Chief of Information Department, Austrian Consulate General, 683 Fifth Avenue, New York 22.

TRIBUTE TO VON HOFMANNSTHAL. A memorial celebration for the noted Austrian poet Hugo von Hofmannsthal was held in the Vienna Hall of the Salzburg Mozarteum on August 24. The ceremony opened with a performance of Mozart quartettes, followed by a speech of tribute by Sir George Frankenstein, former Austrian Minister to Great Britain. Sir George announced the establishment of a Hofmannsthal Society with headquarters in Salzburg and branches in London, Paris and New York. Sir George has been elected President of the Society, and its board of directors will consist of Felix Braun, Ernst Lothar, Alexander Lernet-Holenia and Max Mell. The meeting closed with the reading of poems of Hofmannsthal by Paula Wessely and Helene Thimig.

COMPREHENSIVE HISTORY OF AUSTRIAN MUSIC. The Federal Publishing House (Bundesverlag) has just issued the 85th volume of its series, Monuments of Austrian Music. The series was begun in 1888 by Guido Adler with the objective of reviving and preserving a rich fund of earlier

Austrian music. By 1938, Adler had compiled from Austrian and foreign sources 83 volumes, each dealing with one phase of Austrian music. Among the fields covered are Church and secular lyrics of the middle ages, repertory music of the 15th Century from the Codices of Trient, the masters of the Renaissance, the Baroque composers, and ecclesiastical, theatrical and instrumental music up to the time of Lanner and Strauss. Other volumes cover masses and requiems of the 17th Century, Austrian lute music of the 16th and 17th centuries, Viennese piano and organ music of the second half of the 17th Century, instrumental music in Vienna around 1750, lieder of the 18th Century, German group singing between 1480 and 1550. The 84th volume was published during the occupation. Since Adler's death in 1941, Dr. Erich Schenck of the University of Vienna has been appointed by the Institute of Musical Science to direct the series. The government plans to reissue out-of-print volumes from the series, and will supply excerpts to practicing musicians.

OLDEST KNOWN SHEET MUSIC IN VIENNA COLLECTION. The papyrus collection of the National Library contains what is thought to be the oldest sheet music in existence, a 2000-year old Egyptian papyrus. The manuscript consists of a 9.2 cm x 8.5 cm sheet of narrow horizontal and vertical papyrus strips glued and pressed together. The papyrus is inscribed with 14 lines of Greek text and musical notes. It is part of what was once a scroll used in an open-air presentation of Aeschylus' Oresteia, and dates from the first Century A.D. It was discovered late in the 19th Century by the Viennese Egyptologist, Karl Wessely, who found a layer of papyrus scraps in an Egyptian rock tomb. The papyrus was among the few things that had been left by looters. The fragment supports the theory that the Greek drama was at least partly sung to instrumental accompaniment, since the scoring appears to be for voice and some sort of string instrument.

VIENNA STATE OPERA TO VISIT MILAN. Director Labroca of La Scala in Milan has broken with tradition by inviting the Staatsoper company to give a performance this Christmas of Mozart's Nozze di Figaro in the new version first presented at the Salzburg Festival. The Staatsoper troupe will return to La Scala in April also for a performance of Die Walkuere. Arrangements for the visit were made by the director of the Austrian Federal Theaters, Dr. Egon Hilbert.

STATE OPERA PLANS VISIT TO NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM. The Vienna Staatsoper has announced that it will visit Holland and Belgium during June 1949. Performances of Don Giovanni and of Salome will be given in Amsterdam and The Hague, followed by concerts by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. From the Netherlands, the Staatsoper company will go on to Brussels and Antwerp.

FURTWAENGLER TO HEAD VIENNA PHILHARMONIC. The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra has announced that Dr. Wilhelm Furtwaengler will again be its principal conductor during the coming season. Dr. Furtwaengler will conduct five concerts in Vienna during the season. In September he will take the orchestra to London's Albert Hall, where several concerts will be given under the direction of Joseph Krips.

B.B.C. TELEVISION FILM UNIT IN AUSTRIA. Representatives of the British Broadcasting Company have recently been visiting Austria for the purpose of making films to be shown via television in England. Parts of the Salzburg Festivals were photographed, as well as scenes from the countryside of Salzburg and the Tyrol. Pictures were made of the Grail Settlement in the Tyrol, run by a sectarian group who call themselves Knights of the Grail. A workshop where stained glass is produced in Innsbruck was also photographed. The work of the B.B.C. unit will give a glimpse of Austrian culture and tourist attractions to Britain's television audience of 7 600 000 persons.

MOTION PICTURE BASED ON BEETHOVEN'S EROICA. A film telling the story of the Eroica Symphony is being made in Austria by the Art Film Corp. The picture is being produced by Karl Hartl and directed by Mr. Kolm-Veltee. Outdoor scenes will be photographed in Vienna and the surrounding country during September, and indoor shots will be made during October in Vienna studios. Ewald Balser will play the role of Beethoven, and other parts will be played by Judith Holzmeister, Dagny Servaes, Alfred Neugebauer and Oscar Werner. Music will be supplied by the Vienna Philharmonic under Hans Knappertsbusch.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IN VIENNA. In the course of the cleaning up and reconstruction of the war-damaged city, a number of ancient relics have recently been unearthed in Vienna. A Roman tomb of the third Century A.D. was uncovered in a park near the Votive Church. Parts of a neolithic settlement dating back to the third millenium before Christ have been found in Ober-Sankt Veit, including a dwelling which contained weapons, tools, clay vessels and bone fragments. Restoration of the Romanesque church in the suburb of Schwechat led to the discovery that stones from a nearby Roman castellum had been used in the foundations. A Roman cemetery was opened up in the vicinity, and in the heart of Vienna remains of early Roman fortifications have been found in cellars.

PREPARATIONS MADE FOR WINTER SKI SEASON. Preparations are being made for an influx of visitors to the Tyrol and to Western Austria during the coming ski season. In the Tyrol, roads have been resurfaced and new bus lines established. A new ski jump is being constructed at Seefeld which will permit jumps of up to 85 meters. An 800-meter ski lift is being built from Innsbruck to the Patscherkofel, a mountain 2000 meters high. The lift will connect the mountaintop with the nearby resort of Igls. The big event of the ski season will be the famous Arlberg-Kandahar race at St. Anton, the birthplace of modern ski technic. Homes and hotels in the Austrian ski country provide modern, well-heated accommodations for 15 000 tourists.

CONFISCATED CHURCH BELLS BEING REPLACED. Austrian bell foundries are working to supply Austrian towns and villages with church bells to replace those confiscated by the Germans. 95% of the nation's church bells were shipped off to German armament works. One of the workshops in Vienna has already turned out hundreds of bells, but production is impeded by the scarcity of skilled artisans. The bells are made according to an ancient formula devised by a Benedictine monk. Bells could formerly be tuned within a quarter-tone of the desired pitch; now, thanks to modern refinements, they can be tuned within one thirty-second of an interval.

VIENNA STREETS BEING REPLANTED WITH TREES. Only 120 000 of the famous trees that formerly lined Vienna's streets survived the combined ravages of war and fuel shortage. The Vienna Park Administration now plans to plant 85 000 new trees. Instead of the traditional horse-chestnut trees for which the Prater was famed, the city has decided to plant walnut and cherry trees for the extra benefit of their edible fruit.

DEATH MASK OF MOZART DISCOVERED. A death mask of Mozart, made on December 5, 1791, was recently discovered in a Vienna junk shop by Willie Kauer, a sculptor and authority on death masks. The bronze cast was made for the collection of a Count Deyn, and disappeared immediately thereafter. Kauer had been searching for the mask for twelve years, and says that measurements have convinced him of the authenticity of his find. The mask is in a good state of preservation.

ERRATUM. The import figures in the article "Increase in foreign trade volume" on page 4 of this issue should read: Imports during the first half of the year amounted to 1140.3 million schillings, while 1947 imports totalled 1191.2 million schillings.

AUSTRIAN CONSULATE GENERAL
683 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 22, N. Y.